

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Travel from Hong Kong to China

1. To obtain permission to travel from Hong Kong to China, an applicant must write to his family or friends at his desired destination, requesting them to make a formal application in his behalf at the regional public security bureau. He must forward three photographs of himself for presentation with the application, and two guarantors, who may be relatives or friends, must also support the application. The applicant must state the purpose of his trip and convince the public security bureau that it is to serve some useful purpose; hence, a request to travel merely to visit one's relatives may be refused on the grounds that "this person is not needed in China"
2. After receiving his entry permit, the traveler must proceed directly to his destination and report to the public security bureau within twenty-four hours after arrival; unnecessary delays en route are expressly forbidden.

Travel from China to Hong Kong

3. A resident of the mainland wishing to travel to Hong Kong must apply at his local public security bureau for an exit permit. While exit permits are occasionally granted for purely personal reasons, few people ever request them because the mere act of applying arouses suspicion. A merchant who wants to line up a Hong Kong-mainland trading venture is also unlikely to obtain a permit. Normally, only those individuals who established trade relations in Hong Kong prior to Communist control of the mainland are given permits, although permits are sometimes granted to individuals escorting goods between China and Hong Kong. For such business trips to Hong Kong, guarantors are also required.

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466

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SECRET

-2-

4. An exit permit is granted only for a specific length of time, usually 30 to 60 days. However, elderly parents who have children living in Hong Kong are sometimes allowed to leave China permanently in order to join their families, providing their families had set up residence in Hong Kong prior to the "liberation" of the mainland. When such persons are allowed to emigrate, they must return their exit permits to the issuing public security bureau within two to three days after their arrival.
5. An increasing number of Chinese businessmen go to Hong Kong in a semi-official capacity, under sponsorship of Communist Government trade bureaus. Likewise a number of Communist officials enter Hong Kong ostensibly as businessmen; they are first given strict directions to keep away from foreigners and Nationalist agents in Hong Kong.

Travel Within China

6. Once an applicant has received his permit to enter China, has reached his stated destination and transacted his business, he is not prohibited from traveling about the country. Special passes between metropolitan areas are not required. In practice, however, neither permanent residents nor visitors travel within China if they can avoid it because travel generally causes suspicion with consequent investigations and interrogations. When an individual wants to travel he usually reports to the local public security bureau voluntarily, informing it of the purpose of his trip. Upon reaching his destination he again reports to the public security authorities to inform them of his business there and his local address.
7. Although passes between metropolitan centers are not required, passes are required for farmers visiting villages ten or twenty miles apart. Farmers do not need permits to take their produce to established market centers, however; if they remain overnight they must let the local public security bureau know where they are staying.

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Comment. It is not clear whether these escorts had to have a previous record for this type of travel or whether a newcomer, traveling for an established firm, could make such trips. It appears likely, however, that both the authorities and the firm would favor the use of persons previously engaged in such escort activity.

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